

2023 VBS TRAINING

Monday, May 8, 2023

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

WELCOMING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

- What's your existing policy on behavior? Will it work for VBS or does it need to be adapted?
- Make sure staff and volunteers are trained to know and all are following the same policy.

3 main reasons kids act out: attention, boredom, confusion

- **attention** → the more attention you give a misbehavior the more it get repeated, address it and move on, give the most attention to the behavior you desire
- **boredom** → create fast-paced, engaging lessons and activities, being well prepared is the key, have plenty of back up plans and extra activities, if the teacher can't create excitement, the students will!
- **confusion** → set clear expectations and follow through with them, provide verbal schedules, "Here's what the plan is for our time together today..."

Create a set of easy-to-remember standard "rules" (hand motions?)

- Be Respectful
- Be Reponsible
- Be Polite

- Almost all misbehavior falls into these three categories.
- Be consistent and communicate often.
- Go over rules during the worship rally, have them posted in all the rooms.
- When a child misbehaves, determine which rule they've broken, ask them which rule they've broken and how he/she could've made a different choice, remind them of the consequences.
- Give kids choices, but the choices always work out in your favor (i.e.: Which song would you like to sing first? Do you want to work alone or in pairs?)
- Consider your room layout. Eliminate rows, if possible. The more rows, the more problems. If a child has to sit in the back, he's gotta work that much harder for attention, i.e., disruption!
- Form circles - kids all face each other for the lesson or activity.
- Have a fun attention getter that goes with the theme, i.e.: Twists....and Turns
- As a leader/director be available for discipline issues. Be aware of those children that struggle in this area and check in often to make sure your help isn't needed. Be careful with rewards!
- Use eye contact and get on their level when speaking to children about behavior.

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WELCOMING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

- Enlist a volunteer to oversee your efforts!
- “If VBS reflects our community, up to 1 in 5 of the kids we welcome during VBS will have a mental health diagnosis or a physical, cognitive, or learning disability.” Sandra Peoples
- Be Prepared!
- Have an intake form for families that have kids with special needs. See sample below.
- Have volunteers ready to assist in this area as buddies.
- Give those volunteers tools, such as training, buddy bags, visual schedules.
- Consider what curriculum adaptations might need to be made (games? Bible lesson? crafts?).
- Develop a reward system that coincides with the theme.
- Create visual rotation schedules.
- Make sure someone (the buddy, a rotation leader, or a helper) gives time warnings before transitions.
- Have a break plan for the child (a walk, a room, outside, the hallway).
- Communicate with the family daily.

ADDITIONAL INFO:

- [Buddy training - online](#)
- [Disabilities Intake Form](#)
- [Amazon Buddy Bag List](#)